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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,716	01/30/2004	Shunichi Kunihiro	00862.023436	6056
5514	7590	06/13/2006		
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER UHLENHAK, JASON S	
			ART UNIT 2853	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/767,716	KUNIHIRO, SHUNICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason Uhlenhake	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/24/04; 4/11/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 – 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Otsuki et al (U.S. Pat. 6,527,360).

Otsuki et al discloses:

- ***regarding claim 1, claim 7, and claim 8***, inkjet printing apparatus and method, having a carriage incorporating a cartridge incorporating an inkjet printhead where nozzles for discharging ink are arranged in a predetermined direction, for performing printing by scanning the carriage with respect to a printing medium in a direction orthogonal to the predetermined direction (Column 1, Lines 50 - 61)
- first and second conveyance means, arranged at upstream side and downstream side with respect to a printing-medium conveyance direction of an area of the printing medium scanned by the printhead, for conveying the printing medium while holding the printing medium (Column 10, Lines 40 – 50)
- nozzle setting means for, when printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means, setting a nozzle to be used for printing from the

Art Unit: 2853

nozzles are a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range, in accordance with a position of a printing medium in a printing-medium conveyance direction (Column 11, Lines 13 – 26; Column 12, Lines 16 – 37)

- **regarding claim 2**, wherein said nozzle setting means makes setting so that the nozzles for which the distance between the discharge surface and the printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range are divided in plural times of scanning (Column 13, Lines 1 – 13; Column 25, Lines 9 – 17)

- **regarding claim 3**, wherein during the plural times of scanning, nozzles to be used for printing are changed, instead of conveying the printing medium by at least one of the first and second conveyance means (Column 12, Lines 16 – 37)

- **regarding claim 4**, said nozzle setting means makes setting to use nozzles at the upstream side with respect to the conveyance direction for printing a front-end side of the printing medium, and to use nozzles at the downstream side with respect to the conveyance direction for printing a rear-end side of the printing medium (Column 13, Lines 62 – 68; Column 14, Lines 1 – 5; Column 15, Lines 47 – 50)

- **regarding claim 5**, said nozzle setting means makes setting to use all nozzles when the printing medium is held by both the first and second conveyance means (Column 12, Lines 30 – 37)

- **further regarding claim 7**, a determining step of determining whether or not the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means

Art Unit: 2853

based on a position of the printing medium in a printing-medium conveyance direction
(Column 12, Lines 16 – 30)

- a nozzle setting step of, when it is determined by the determining step that the printing medium is held only by one of the first and second conveyance means, setting a nozzle to be used for printing from the nozzles where a distance between a discharge surface of each nozzle and a printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range (Column 12, Lines 16 – 37)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuki et al (U.S. Pat. 6,527,360) in view of Takemura et al (U.S. Pat. 5,988,784)

Otsuki et al discloses all of the claimed limitations except for the following:

- ***regarding claim 6***, said nozzle setting means further comprises an association table of a nozzle to be used and a distance with respect to the printing medium conveyance direction for each type of printing medium

Takemura et al discloses:

- ***regarding claim 6***, said nozzle setting means further comprises an association table associating a nozzle to be used and a distance with respect to the printing medium conveyance direction for each type of printing medium (Column 8, Line

46 – Column 9 Line 5; Column 9, Lines 25 – 36), for the purpose of using a variety of recording mediums while minimizing deviations of recorded lines.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of nozzle setting means further comprises an association table of a nozzle to be used and a distance with respect to the printing medium conveyance direction for each type of printing medium as taught by Takemura et al into the device of Otsuki et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to use a variety of recording mediums while minimizing deviations of recorded lines.

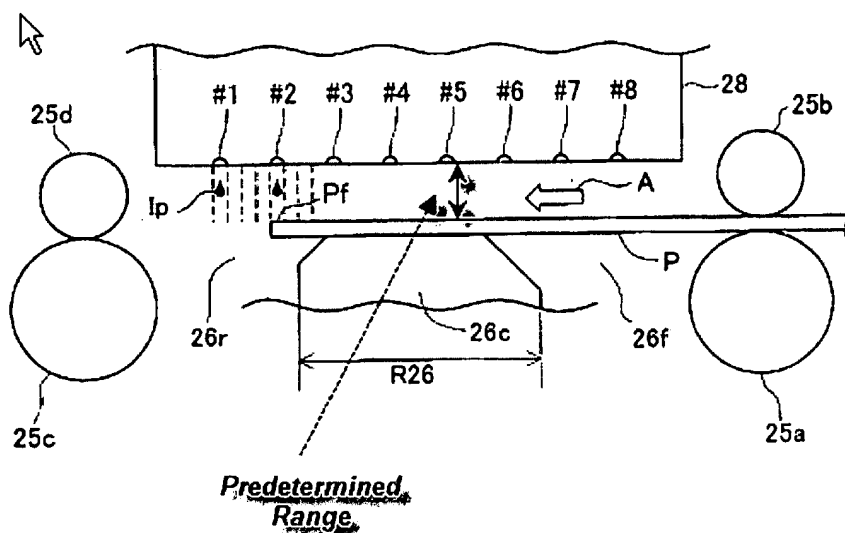
Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the above rejection regarding Otsuki et al (U.S. Pat. 6,527,360) in view of Takemura et al (U.S. Pat. 5,988,784). They disclose a nozzle setting means comprising a table of nozzle information to be used and a distance with respect to the printing medium conveyance direction for each type of printing medium.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected regarding Otsuki et al. Otsuki et al discloses a printing medium held by one of a first and second conveying means (Figures 10, 14) and describes specific nozzles used (setting or selecting) for “upper edge routines” and “lower edge routines” (Column 12, Lines 16 – 37), also discloses a

Art Unit: 2853

distance between the discharge surface of each nozzle and the printing surface of the printing medium falls within a predetermined range (Figure 10).

Fig. 10

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2853

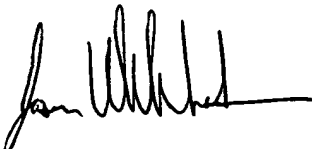
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Uhlenhake whose telephone number is (571) 272-5916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JSU
June 9, 2006




K. FEGGINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER